



Irregular Migration and Mixed Flows: IOM's Approach





I. Introduction

Follow-up to IOM Council, December 2008

“Challenges of Irregular Migration: Addressing Mixed Migration Flows”

Key Message - Responses to irregular migration and mixed flows:

1. Need to take place within a comprehensive approach to migration management
2. Consider the whole “migratory life-cycle”, proactive measures at pre-departure phase can minimize many of the abuses that occur later



II. Understanding Mixed Flows

Irregular migration:

- “Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the countries of origin, transit and destination”

(IOM World Migration Report, 2008)





II. Understanding Mixed Flows

Mixed flows:

- Complex population movements including refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants, victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants, unaccompanied minors and other migrants



- Focus is on irregular movements but irregularity not necessarily the defining feature



III. International Concerns

Growing interest of and concern from international organizations and regional bodies:



- **UNHCR: 10-point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration** --> identifies protection gaps in respect of refugees and “other persons of concern” to UNHCR at various stages of the mixed migratory movement



- **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:** Strategic initiative in humanitarian assistance and protection for migrants



- **EU and the Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) Dialogue** ‘Towards a Comprehensive Response to Mixed Migration Flows’ project serves as reference for good practice on joint management of mixed migration flows by EU member states and their Mediterranean neighbours



- **Council of Europe and African Union** Draw attention to the special vulnerabilities entailed in mixed migration





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Normative base:

IOM Constitution

- “International migration also includes that of refugees, displaced persons and other individuals compelled to leave their homelands, and who are in need of international migration services” (Preamble, recital 3)

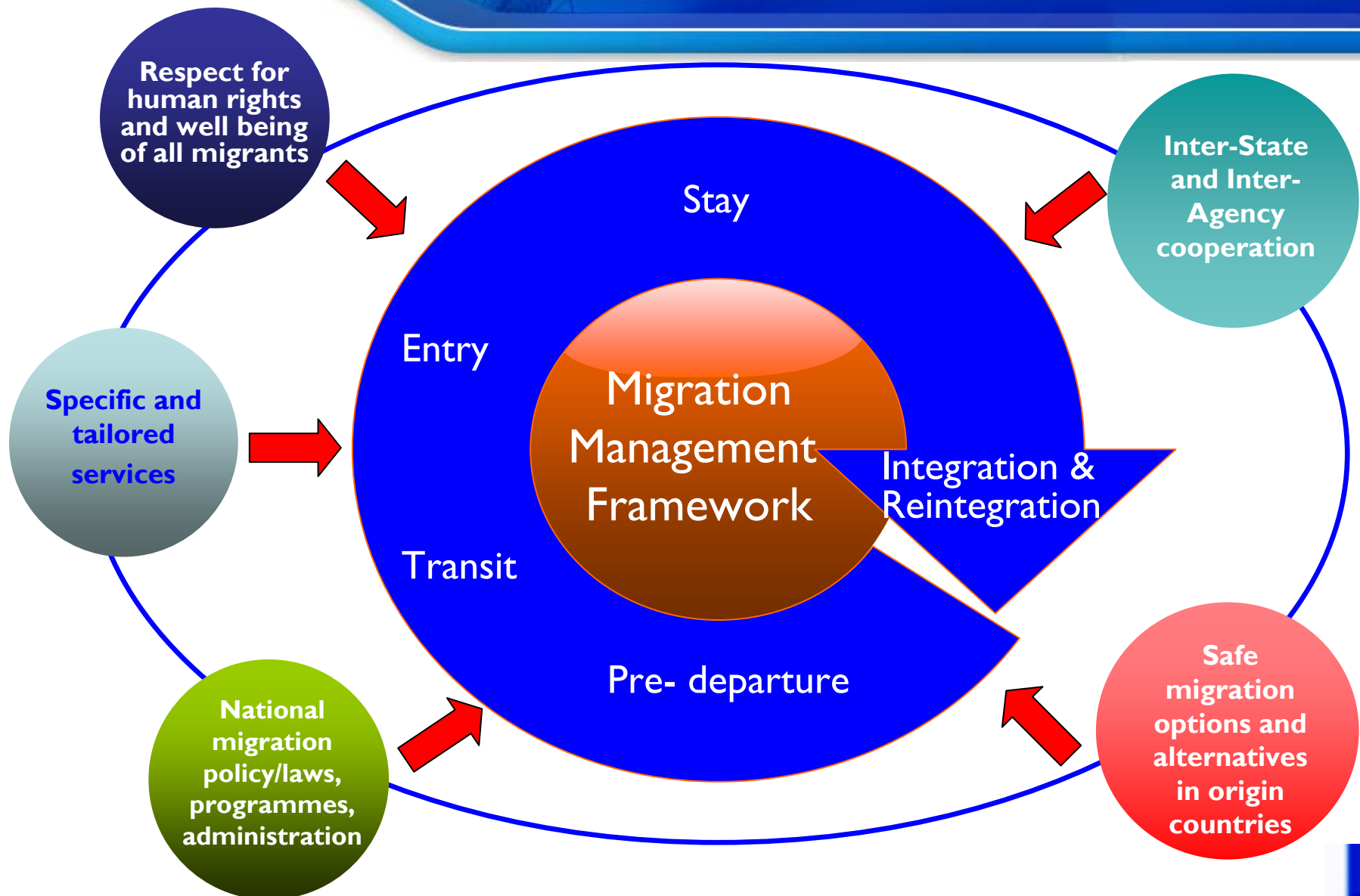
IOM Strategy 2007

- “To enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law.” (activity 2)
- Need to support “States, migrants and communities in addressing the challenges of irregular migration” (activity 5)
- “To provide migration services in other emergency or post-crisis situations as appropriate and as relates to the needs of individuals, thereby contributing to their protection” (activity 9)

Vision: Moving towards a holistic response while addressing immediate needs



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Five Areas of Work

1. Direct assistance to migrants
2. Helping to develop policy and legislation
3. Training government officials and other stakeholders
4. Disseminating information to migrants and host communities
5. Co-operation and partnership





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Examples

I. Direct Assistance

- Global Assistance Fund
 - Provides assistance to trafficked men, women and children
- EC co-funded “Increasing Public Health Safety Alongside the New Eastern European Border Line” (PHBLM) Project
 - Provides individualized healthcare to migrants





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Examples

2. Policy and Legislation

Equality and non-discrimination: core principles of the rule of law framework

- Diversity Initiative in Ukraine
- “Counter Xenophobia Initiative for South Africa: Tolerance, Integration, Diversity” Project in MRF Pretoria



Design policies that protect the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of their migratory status.

Addressing the demand side of migration by designing labour migration policies that facilitate safe and regular migration in all skills categories (see WMR 2008)



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Examples

3. Training

Enhancing capacity of all relevant stakeholders:

- Government officials
- Private sector companies (India)
- Civil society (Libya)



Assisting policymakers in a regional context:

- African Capacity Building Centre (Tanzania)
- Migration Research and Training Centre (Republic of Korea)





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Examples

4. Information

Raising awareness of both would-be migrants and host communities:

- **Mass-media campaigns**
 - Radio campaign in Somalia
 - “Buy responsibly” campaign with Saatchi & Saatchi launched on EU Anti-trafficking Day 18 October 2009
- **Targeting unemployed youth in areas of high emigration**
 - West Africa
- **Addressing risks of trafficking**
 - School children awareness in South Caucasus





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Examples

5. Co-operation

Partnerships are key for success

- **Inter-State level:**
 - RCPs – e.g. Puebla Process, MIDSA
 - IOM/CARICOM/UNICEF working group on child migration (2009)
- **Inter-agency cooperation:**
 - IOM/ UNHCR/ Italian Red Cross in Lampedusa and Sicily (Praesidium Project) on identification/assistance in the front line





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Examples

5. Co-operation (cont'd)

- **Somalia and Yemen Mixed Migration Taskforce (MMTF)** to address the needs of migrants and asylum-seekers crossing the **Gulf of Aden**
- **IOM/UNHCR/Angolan immigration authorities capacity-building project**
- **IOM workshop (February 2009) ; “Irregular Migration Flows from East Africa and the Horn of Africa Toward Southern Africa”**





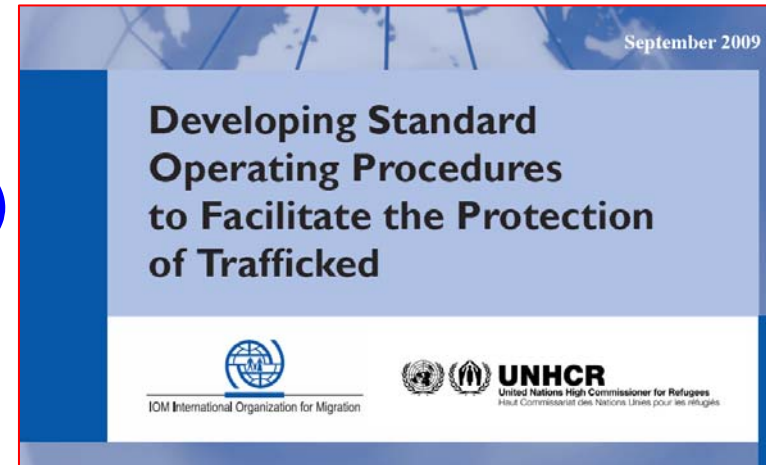
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Examples

5. Co-operation (cont'd)

- IOM/ UNHCR Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to facilitate protection of and provision of assistance to trafficked persons
- Other forms of interagency cooperation
 - **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**
 - **UN Country Teams**





V. Conclusion

- IOM, in collaboration with its partners, firmly engaged in responses to mixed migratory flows:

**Assisting
vulnerable
migrants**

and

**providing support to
governments and
other stakeholders**



- IOM looks forward to the membership's further guidance on its work in this field



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